

Fourth Year of

THE EYE-BANK FOR
SIGHT RESTORATION

Incorporated

1949

210 EAST 64TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.



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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION, INC.
1949

THIS Fourth Annual Report of The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc. has been reduced to this size in order to release funds to allow for the publication of the booklet which is enclosed. We earnestly solicit your comments regarding this booklet, which is designed to elicit interest in the giving of eyes as well as monetary support. We are also hopeful it will serve to acquaint the public with the aims and accomplishments of the Eye-Bank. It should be considered as part of this Annual Report.

In its fourth year, the Eye-Bank has been responsible for making possible a notable increase in the number of corneal graft operations performed in the United States. Over 1,500 eyes since 1945 (450 during this year alone) have been processed by the Eye-Bank, and this number does not take into account the eyes that were made available because of Eye-Bank stimulus but were used directly at the out-of-town source. Likewise, the unique library of eye histories which the Eye-Bank provides for professional use has increased proportionately, as has the pathological eye material available for study.

The weekly Corneal Clinic of the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital is an important new contribution of the Eye-Bank. It has a capacity attendance and as doctors learn of this Clinic—the only one of its kind in the United States—they make numerous referrals to it. In addition, several foreign governments have financed the transportation to this Clinic of patients who could benefit by its services.

During 1949, the Eye-Bank sponsored the first International Symposium on Corneal Surgery—a two-day meeting in New York which attracted the acceptances of about 100 top eye surgeons from the United States and eight foreign countries. Eye-Bank films of the corneal graft operation were shown, as were films prepared by outstanding foreign specialists in addition to American doctors. Papers were read by several distinguished ophthalmologists, a round table discussion was held, a laboratory demonstration of current experimental

problems was given, and pre-operative and post-operative cases were examined.

The Eye-Bank was solely responsible for this meeting. At that time it also arranged for the presence of 40 of the many patients who are now enjoying restored sight, thanks to the Eye-Bank services. These patients came to the Clinic from as far away as Texas and paid their own expenses as a gesture of appreciation of the Eye-Bank's benefit to them. This International Conference has been widely praised as a real contribution to the knowledge and progress of sight restoration.

The Eye-Bank, within the limits of its budget, has continued to sponsor and encourage research in subjects pertaining to corneal surgery, such as preservation of eyes, the physiological and bio-chemical study of corneal epithelium, and improvements in surgical techniques. Several grants, from funds given for research only, have been made to doctors for specific projects.

In 1949 the Eye-Bank sponsored a training course for doctors desirous of improving their knowledge and skill of corneal-graft surgery. This concentrated course made it possible for 10 doctors to observe and to perform typical corneal operations in the laboratory. They were also given the opportunity to observe human cases that were operated on under the sponsorship of the Eye-Bank.

It is clear that the Eye-Bank is now accepted by the outstanding ophthalmologists of the world as an institute for research in corneal surgery and as a center for training and observation. With the generous publicity given to its work by the press, an increased number of appeals has been dealt with by the Eye-Bank's staff. A steady supply of eyes and increased financial assistance from the public are now desperately needed in order for the Eye-Bank to be of maximum service. Your participation in the Eye-Bank's growth should be reason for great pride; your increased support of its work is earnestly sought.

Current demands upon the Eye-Bank for help have always been so great that little attention could be given to its endowment and future financial security. Now that the Eye-Bank is of demonstrable and continuing value, funds must be provided and set aside to assure its existence.

As an indication of the Eye-Bank's growth, we point out that during the first year of its existence the Eye-Bank was able to serve about six doctors, which was then a large percentage of the surgeons performing the corneal graft operation. This year—a tribute to the Eye-Bank's contribution to increased knowledge of corneal graft surgery and to the assurance it provides that eye material will be made available—the Eye-Bank has served over 24 doctors in almost every quarter of the United States. The Eye-Bank has also continued to assist the foundation and growth of Eye-Banks in France, Australia, Brazil, Mexico and India, and to increase the number of its affiliated hospitals in the United States.

We record with great sorrow the death of Albert G. Milbank, who served as Chairman of the Council since the inception of the Eye-Bank. His constant and enlightened counsel, growing out of a lifetime of service to public health work and education, provided an element of strength and inspiration which is reflected in large measure in the present vigorous success of the Eye-Bank.

This report would be seriously remiss without acknowledgment of the Eye-Bank's debts to its many friends: to the Milbank Memorial Fund for its continuing generosity; to the doctors in our affiliated hospitals who give their time and assistance in supplying us with eyes; to the air lines, especially the entire personnel of the Eastern Air Lines, who give unstinting cooperation in the movement of eyes; to the Red Cross Motor Corps, for its services in collecting and distribution; to the press, for its remarkable coverage of our needs and accomplishments and its careful presentation of our story; to the doctors, nurses, night clerks and telephone operators of the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital for their generous cooperation; and to the small administrative staff of the Eye-Bank for its unusual loyalty and devotion to the cause of sight restoration. And, most importantly, we must also record especial thanks to those generous Americans who, by the donation of their eyes at death, have made it possible for the living to see again.

AIDA DE ACOSTA BRECKINRIDGE,
Executive Director.

THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION, INC., NEW YORK, N. Y.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For the Year Ended April 30, 1949

RECEIPTS

<i>General Operating Account:</i>	
Milbank Memorial Fund	\$10,000.00
Other Contributions and Memberships	26,018.41
(Excluding donated securities, valued at \$1,362.50)	
Fees	675.00
Miscellaneous	266.43
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	\$36,959.84

DISBURSEMENTS

<i>General Operating Account:</i>	
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 474.50
Securities Purchased, and Accrued Interest	25,157.40
Public Relations	2,149.70
Salaries	15,121.84
Insurance and Accounting Expense	1,114.09
Office Expense, including telephone and service	2,855.02
Laboratory Salaries and Expense	8,040.33
Fellowships and Grants	3,000.00
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	\$57,912.88

Special Purpose Gifts:

Fellowships	6,750.00
Laboratory Expense	2,000.00
Securities Purchased, and Accrued Interest	5,015.38
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	13,765.38

Cash Balance, April 30, 1949:

General Operating Account	18,555.39
Special Purpose Gifts (Including \$1,650.00 transferred from General Operating Account)	7,634.62
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	26,190.01
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	\$97,868.27

To the Board of Directors:

We have examined the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION, INC. for the year ended April 30, 1949. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the foregoing statement presents fairly the recorded receipts and disbursements of The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc. for the year ended April 30, 1949, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

(Signed) J. R. HANNA & CO., Certified Public Accountants
Contributions deductible from Federal Income Taxes

AFFILIATED EYE-BANKS

BOSTON EYE-BANK

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Telephone: Lafayette 8230

NEW ORLEANS EYE-BANK

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THE EYE-BANK
FOR SIGHT RESTORATION, INC.

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